

WASTE DITCH

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I JACK H. COBURN HAVE BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH THE WASTE DITCH THAT RUNS DOWN THE NORTH SIDE OF THE LAND KNOWN AS THE WILL RICHARDSON LAND FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS. I OPERATED THE LAND AS RENTER AND OWNER AND NOW FORMER QWNER. I HAVE HAD MANY EXPERIENCES TO LEAVE NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THIS WAS THE WASTE DITCH.

I WAS A BOARD MEMBER FOR THE IRRIGATION COMPANY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. WHEN YOU HIRED SOMEONE LIKE ED NILSON OR GOLDEN SORENSEN TO CLEAN AND BURN THE DITCHES THEY WOULD ALWAYS SAY DO YOU WANT US TO CLEAN THE WASTE DITCH MEANING THIS DITCH. IF IN THE SUMMER YOU HAD A CLOUD BURST OR EXTRA HEAVY RAIN IT WOULD ALWAYS BE SENT DOWN THAT WAY. THEY WOULD TURN OFF OTHER DITCHES, LIKE THE HANSEN DITCH AND IT WOULD FLOOD CLEAR ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF MY FIELD. IF I ASKED THE NEIGHDOR WHY THEY SENT IT ALL DOWN ON ME THEY SAY, "THATS THE WASTE DITCH." THIS GOT TO BE SUCH A PROBLEM THAT I FINALLY WATCHED THE DITCH TO SEE ITS CAPACITY AND I MARKED THE STEEL HEADGATE AND BROUGHT IT UP TO MY SHOP AND CUT IT OFF SO THAT IT WOULD ACT AS A SPILLWAY WHEN IT GOT TOO HIGH FOR THE DITCH TO CARRY IT THE OTHER WAY. IF NECESSARY WE COULD PROBABLY FIND THE HEADGATE THAT I CUT OFF TO SPILL THE WATER DOWN THE WASTE DITCH. DAVID WEEKS WOULD SELDOM TAKE HIS TURN AS HE GOT ENOUGH DOWN THE WASTE DITCH.

AS FAR AS SUBBING THE LAND ACROSS THE STREET A PERSON WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO BEEN DRY BEHIND THE EARS TOO MANY YEARS TO REMEMBER WHEN SAM MERRILL WOULD PUT CATTLE IN THERE AND FEED THEM AND PART OF THE TIME THEY WOULD BE IN MUD UP TO THEIR KNEES NEXT TO THE FEED MANGER. IF MY CATTLE GOT AWAY I DIDN'T WANT TO GO IN THERE AND GET IN THE MUD. THIS PROBLEM IS NOT NEW AS THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WASTE DITCH.

SINCERELY

JACK H. COBURN

8-June 1994 Jack H. Coburn